



Mental Health Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR
January 21, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Mental Health Commission
 Submitted by: boona cheema, Chairperson, Mental Health Commission
 Subject: Appointments of Maria Moore, Edward Opton and Farzaneh Izadi to the Mental Health Commission

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the appointment of Maria Moore as a representative of the Special Public Interest Category; Edward Opton, as a representative of the General Public Interest Category; and Farzaneh Izadi as a representative of the Special Public Interest Category to the Mental Health Commission, for three year terms beginning January 22, 2020 and ending January 21, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Mental Health Commission is authorized to be composed of thirteen members. However, there are presently six vacancies on the Commission. These vacancies impair the Commission's ability to adequately review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs.

Approval of the recommended action will allow the Commission to move one step closer to having a full and diverse complement of commissioners.

BACKGROUND

California State law requires that appointments to the Mental Health Commission meet specific categories, who may serve up to nine years consecutively. The general public interest category may include anyone who has an interest in and some knowledge of mental health services. The special public interest category includes direct consumers of public mental health services and family members of consumers, which together must constitute at least fifty percent or seven of the commission seats. Direct consumers and family members shall each constitute at least 20% of the commission membership. Two members shall be residents of the City of Albany with at least one of these seats filled by a direct consumer or family member.

Currently, the Mental Health Commission consists of the following: two Berkeley Special Public Interest Commissioners; three Berkeley General Public Interest Commissioners; one Albany General Public Interest Commissioner; and one Mayoral appointee.

At the September 26, 2019 meeting, the Mental Health Commission interviewed Maria Moore who works as a Human Resource Analyst but has previously worked as a case manager and a mental health counselor in the bay area. She is involved in numerous community groups and has a passion to work with the mental health population. The secretary has determined that Ms. Moore is eligible for the Berkley Special Interest seat on the Mental Health Commission.

On September 26, 2019 the Mental Health Commission passed the following motion:

Interview and vote on nomination of Maria Moore to the Mental Health Commission M/S/C (Castro, Davila) *Motion to nominate Maria Moore by the Mental Health Commission in order to send to Berkeley City Council for appointment.
Ayes: Castro, cheema, Davila, Fine, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Prichett; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: None.

Also at the September 26, 2019 meeting the Mental Health Commission interviewed Edward Opton for the General Public Interest seat. Mr. Opton is a retired attorney and has a Ph.D in clinical psychology and has volunteered at the National Center for Youth Law to improve mental health treatment for children in foster care. Mr. Opton has also been active in the community working on numerous issues that affect the community.

On September 26, 2019 the Mental Health Commission passed the following motion:

Interview and vote on nomination of Edward Opton to the Mental Health Commission M/S/C (Davila, Prichett) *Motion to nominate Edward Opton by the Mental Health Commission in order to send to Berkeley City Council for appointment.
Ayes: Castro, cheema, Davila, Fine, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Prichett; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: None.

At the October 24, 2019 meeting the mental Health Commission interviewed Farzaneh Izadi who is a mental health consumer of Berkeley Mental Health. She is also an immigrant who came to the US in 2006. She was formally a teacher and a business owner.

On October 24, 2019 the Mental Health Commission passed the following motion:

Interview and vote on nomination of Farzaneh Izadi to the Mental Health Commission M/S/C (Davila; Kealoha-Blake) Motion to nominate Farzaneh Izadi and send to city council for appointment to the Mental Health Commission.
Ayes: Castro, cheema, Davila, Fine, Kealoha-Blake, Prichett; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Heda

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the recommended action will allow the Mental Health Commission to move one step closer to having a full and diverse complement of commissioners to review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager concurs with the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Jamie Works-Wright, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-7721

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

APPOINTMENTS OF MARIA MOORE AND FARZANEH IZADI TO THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SPECIAL PUBLIC INTEREST CATEGORY; AND EDWARD OPTION AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST CATEGORY

WHEREAS, membership of the Mental Health Commission is composed of thirteen appointments by the City Council as a whole, including one appointment by the Mayor (or designee), six special public interest appointments, two appointments of residents of Albany (one of which shall be a representative of the special public interest category), and four general public interest appointments; and

WHEREAS, with the ongoing implementation of the Mental Health Services Act, the City of Berkeley will need to have a full complement of diverse appointees to the Commission to review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs and to fulfill its mandate; and

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Commission, at the September 26, 2019 meeting recommended the appointment of Maria Moore and Edward Opton and at October 24, 2019 the Mental Health Commission also recommended the appointment of Farzaneh Izadi to the Mental Health Commission.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council appoints Maria Moore, to the Mental Health Commission, as representative of special public interest category. Edward Opton, to the Mental Health Commission, as representative of the general public interest category and Farzaneh Izadi, to the Mental Health Commission, as representative of the special public interest category, for a three year term beginning January 22, 2020 and ending January 21, 2023.